

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 9 is being amended. No new matter is being added.

This amendment changes a claim in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 1-2, 5-9 and 14-15 are pending in this application.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 1, 2 and 5-8 are allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,138,862 to Chasteen et al. (“Chasteen”). Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Chasteen. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 9, as amended, recites “a first rolling-contact bearing having a connection bearing shell fixedly mounted to a frame to provide a fixed bearing” and “a second rolling-contact bearing having a movable bearing shell to form a floating bearing, the second rolling bearing not fixedly mounted to the frame, wherein the first and second rolling-contact bearings have a common connecting bearing shell which supports the rolling-contact bodies of the first and second rolling-contact bearings.” Chasteen fails to suggest at least this combination of features as recited in claim 9.

Chasteen discloses a bearing for a ram 68, which is movable back and forth using bearing assemblies 64 and 66 (See FIG. 4). The Chasteen system includes a mounting block 62 along with the bearing assemblies 64 and 66, where the ram 68 can reciprocate within a passage area defined by the bearing assemblies 64 and 66.

Chasteen, however, fails to disclose first and second rolling contact bearings, where the "first rolling-contact bearing [has] a connection bearing shell fixedly mounted to a frame to provide a fixed bearing", and the "second rolling-contact bearing [has] a movable bearing shell to form a floating bearing, the second rolling bearing not fixedly mounted to the frame, wherein the first and second rolling-contact bearings have a common connecting bearing shell which supports the rolling-contact bodies of the first and second rolling-contact bearing." Rather, in the Chasteen arrangement, the bearing assemblies 64 and 66 both appear to be mounted to the mounting block 62 in the same way. The bearings in Chasteen are not arranged to provide both a fixed bearing, fixedly mounted to a frame, and a floating bearing, not fixedly mounted to the frame. Thus, Chasteen fails to anticipate independent claim 9.

Moreover, while the invention as claimed is not limited to the specific embodiments disclosed in the specification, applicant notes for clarification to the Examiner, that the first rolling contact bearings of claim 9, which are fixedly mounted to the frame, correspond to the rolling-contact bearings 16a or 16b in Figure 4, while the second roller contact bearings of claim 9, which are not fixedly mounted to the frame, correspond to the rolling-contact bearings 19a or 19b in Figure 4. The Patent Office, on page 4, appears to refer to only the portion of FIG. 4 containing the bearings 19a and 19b. As noted above, bearing 19a and 19b correspond to the second roller contact bearings of claim 9, not fixedly mounted to the frame, not to the first roller contact bearing which are fixedly mounted to the frame.

Dependent claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 9, either directly or indirectly, and are patentable for at least the same reasons, as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date August 7, 2007

By Thomas G. Bilodeau

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5414
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Richard L. Schwaab
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 25,479

Thomas G. Bilodeau
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,438